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The Kentucky Warbler

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The Kentucky Warbler

The journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

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THE COVER

We thank Pam Spaulding for her photograph of the state’s first Brewer’s Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) at the Metropolitan Sewer District flood retention basin off the South Fork of Beargrass Creek, Jefferson County, 30 April 2019. See Field Note this issue.

THE SPRING SEASON, MARCH - MAY 2019**Ben Yandell and Teresa Noel**

Spring 2019 had near-normal temperatures and precipitation for most of the state. The season's average temperature was warmer than the historical average by 1.3°F (0.7°C). Compared to recent averages for those months, March was cooler by 2.8°F (1.6°C), April was warmer by 2.7°F (1.5°C), and May was warmer by 3.9°F (2.2°C). Precipitation totals were almost exactly average across the months and across most locations. Paducah, however, averaged 71% more precipitation than normal for the season. (Based on National Weather Service monthly averages in Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, Paducah, and Jackson compared to 1981-2010 averages and all-time records.)

Notable bird observations include two firsts for the state: CAVE SWALLOW and BREWER'S SPARROW. Additional review species reported during the season were BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK, WHITE-WINGED DOVE, WHIMBREL, LITTLE GULL, CALIFORNIA GULL, NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, EVENING GROSBEAK, HARRIS'S SPARROW, and PAINTED BUNTING. Other noteworthy reports include White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Common Gallinule, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, a jaeger species, Glaucous Gull, widespread reports of Red-throated Loon, and Brewster's Warbler.

Publication of any unusual sightings in eBird or in this seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official list of Kentucky birds. Reports of rare and out-of-season birds should be accompanied by written and, whenever possible, photographic documentation for review by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*. The most recent KBRC decisions were reported in the November 2018 issue (Yandell 2018).

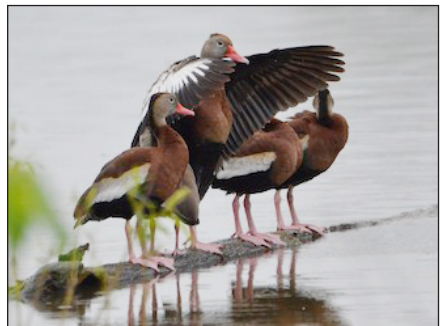
Details of many of the following reports were posted at the time on [birdky](http://birdky.org) and are available at eBird.org. Observer and photographer names are not always clear in eBird, so the following summary may misidentify observers and roles.

The following highlights summarize locations, dates, and observer initials. Documentation method may be noted as follows: wr = written documentation, ph = photograph, vd = video recording, and au = audio recording. Species order is based on AOS 2019. Comments about previous Kentucky bird records rely on the recently updated checklist by Palmer-Ball (2019).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

– All accepted by KBRC. 7 on an industrial pond at Hawesville, *Hancock*, 10 May (ph TLu via JBr). 5 at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 4 May (ChV, BaV, KRk, ph ROC, m.ob. And likely a returning bird, 1 near New Concord, LBL area, *Calloway* (ph HC, ME).

Ross's Goose – 1 exceptionally late at Basil Griffin Park, Bowling Green, *Warren*, 25 May (ph TrL).



Black-bellied Whistling Duck – 4 May 2019,
Fayette, Terri Lusk

Cackling Goose – 1 at Harry King Road, *Barren*, 30 March (wr LCr). 3 at Cave Lake (Cooley Pond), *Wayne*, 23 March and a record late date of 6 April (wr ph RB).

Tundra Swan – 2 continued in *Hopkins* through 10 March (m.ob.).

Greater Scaup – 1-2 birds lingered at McElroy Lake through 14 May (m.ob.).

White-winged Scoter – 1 continued at Lexington Reservoir #2 & 3, *Fayette*, 9-16, 26 March (wr DSv). Female with fishing line tangled in wing continued at Lower Douglas Lake, *Hardin*, reported various dates 17 March - 18 May (wr ph MrL). 2 at KY Dam, 23-26 March (wr ph ShA, JoH, wr ph CBz, wr ph JBa). 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 1 / 16 March (wr ph JkE).

Long-tailed Duck – 1 at Barren River Lake, Bailey's Point, *Allen*, 2 March (wr BPB). 1 at KY Dam, 25 March (ph TaS, wr ph JBa, wr ph CBz).

Common Merganser – The last reports were of a female along the Red River, *Menifee*, 23 April (wr AnW, JIW) and 3 females flying down Russell Fork e. of Elkhorn City near the Virginia Border, *Pike*, 19 May (wr LgA). The lateness of the dates suggests possible breeding, which has recently been confirmed (*Menifee*) or suspected (*Pike*). See Palmer-Ball, *Kentucky Warbler*, 94(4):118, 2018.

Red-necked Grebe – 1 at Lexington Reservoir #2 & 3, *Fayette*, 12 March (ph RxG). Possibly a continuing bird, 1 at KY Dam Village SRP, Marina and Beach, *Marshall*, 6-26 March (JrT, m.ob.).



American Avocet – *Bullitt*, 28 April 2019,
Jamie Baker

Eared Grebe – At least 2 continued at Wolf Creek Dam and nearby areas of Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 18-30 March (wr ph RaB, wr ph LyB).



White-winged Dove – *Hopkins*, 12 May 2019,
Beverly Carrico

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – All singles; all accepted by KBRC. Murray, *Calloway*, 8-9 April (wr ME). Briensburg, *Marshall*, 2-3 May (ph TBR via RL). Lexington, 4-22 May (EIM, wr ph AwM, m.ob.). In ne. *Hopkins*, 12 May (wr ph BvC), at the same location that hosted this species 21 May 2018.

Virginia Rail – 3 at the Sauerheber Unit, 13 April (BPB, wr JW, BBC). 1 at Beckley Creek Park, Grand Allee Section, *Jefferson*, 27 April (wr AwM, BBC). 1 heard at Drakesboro marsh, *Muhlenberg*, 7 May (wr LyB).

Common Gallinule – 1 at McElroy Lake, 12-18 May (wr ph JW, ph CBz, m.ob.).

Black-necked Stilt – 5 at Highway 94 / Midway Church Road, *Fulton*, 30 March (ph AnL) were very early.

American Avocet – 12 at Morgan Pond, 11 April (wr ph JoH, wr ph ShA). 8 e. of Shepherdsville, *Bullitt*, 28 April (ph LMc, wr ph JBa, wr ph TrN, m.ob.). 7 at Mayfair, 9 May (wr ph WmB, m.ob.), and 1 there on 28 May (ph TrL, m.ob.).

WHIMBREL – Accepted by KBRC. 1 at McElroy Lake, 15 May (ph PSp, wr ph RcS, vt ph CBz, m.ob.).

Marbled Godwit – 5 at McElroy Lake, 28 April (ph RcS).

Ruddy Turnstone – Generally 2 at McElroy Lake, 5-6, 12-15, and 27 May (LsC, DSv, wr JSo, wr RD, ph RcS, m.ob.); 6 photographed on 12 May (wr ph JW, TG, SG). 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 15-17 May (wr ph JkE, ph TiN). 2 on the beach at Zilpo Campground and Beach, *Bath*, 17 May (wr ph GtA, DgR). 1 at Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 18 May (ph CC).



Ruddy Turnstone – *Bath*, 17 May 2019,
Gautam Apte

Sanderling – 2+ at McElroy Lake, 9-18 May (wr ph CBz, wr ph RcS, m.ob.).

Western Sandpiper – 1 at McElroy Lake, 3 May (RaB, RcS).

Willet – Reported from the following counties: *Christian, Fayette, Green, Jefferson, Kenton, Pulaski, Warren, and Wayne*. Peak count reported was a group of 64 that circled but did not land near Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 28 April (ph RxG).

Wilson's Phalarope – 1-2 at McElroy Lake, 26 April and 4-17 May (RD, ph RcS, m.ob.). 1 near Midway Church Road, *Fulton*, 2 May (CBz, HC).

Jaeger sp. – 1 likely immature chasing gulls near KY Dam, 23 March (wr JoH).

LITTLE GULL – Eighth state record; accepted by KBRC. First-cycle bird with Bonaparte's and other gulls above Barkley Dam, *Livingston/Lyon*, 20-26 April (wr ph CBz, m.ob.).

Laughing Gull – 1 at McElroy Lake, 11 March (wr ph RcS).

Franklin's Gull – 1 along the levee in *Fulton*, 6 March (wr ph TmJ). 2-3 above Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, 24 April (wr ph BY). 1 at McElroy Lake, 10 May (wr ph RD, ph RcS, m.ob.).



California Gull – *Marshall*, 1 March 2019,
Brian Wulker

CALIFORNIA GULL – Previously accepted by KBRC. 2 continued at WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, 1 March (wr ph BWu, wr ph TG, SG, wr ph CBz, wr ph BPB).

Glaucous Gull – 1 continued at WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, 1 March (ph TG, SG, ph BWu, ph BPB, ph CBz).



Little Gull – *Livingston*, 26 April 2019,
Tommy Quarles

Least Tern – All reports listed. 1-2 along Levee Road, *Fulton*, 23 May (wr BY, HC, JoP). 100-150 on a Mississippi River island at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*, 29 May (WtG). 2 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 31 May (ph CC). All

Black Tern – Usually 1-2 at McElroy Lake, 4-23 May (BPB, LMc, RcS, m.ob.), with at least 8 there on 9 May (RcS, CBz). 1 at Zilpo Campground and Beach, *Bath*, 20 May (DgR, GtA). 2 on a Mississippi River island at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*, 29 May (WtG).



Common Tern – *Lyon*, 26 April 2019,
Tommy Quarles

Common Tern – 1-4 at Lake Barkley, *Livingston/Lyon*, 24 April-4 May (wr ph BY, HC, wr ph RcS, RaB, m.ob.). 1 at KY Dam, 3 May (RaB). 1 at McElroy Lake, 2-12 May (RcS, m.ob.), except 12 there on 10 May (RD, m.ob.) for the season's high count.

Red-throated Loon – A productive season for reports of this species, starting with a state record 5 between the Sledd Creek Boat Ramp and KY Dam, *Marshall*, 1 March (ph BWu, vd ph CBz, wr BPB, TG, SG); 1-2 reported around KY Lake at scattered dates 7-26 March (m.ob.). A noteworthy count of 3 at McElroy Lake, 8 April (wr JSo, JoO). 1-2 at Bailey's Point, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 25-26 March (wr ph LCr, BBr, m.ob.). 1 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 26 March (wr ph JnS). 1 reported for almost two weeks at Jacobson Park and nearby reservoirs, *Fayette*, 2-14 May (wr ph COB, vd ph TrN, wr ROC, wr DSv, m.ob.).

American Bittern – All reports listed. 1 at Yellow Dog Road, Cunningham, *Carlisle*, 29 March (wr KBn, m.ob.). 1 at University Drive Ponds, *Laurel*, 13 April (wr JnS). 3 at Green River WMA, *Adair*, 18 April (ph RD). 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, 24 April (CC, m.ob.). In *Henderson*, 1-2 at the Sauerheber Unit, 24-25 April (CC, m.ob.) and 1 several miles east at the Audubon Wetlands, 26 April (RcS). 1 at Port Oliver, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 25 April (LCr). 1 at South Shore WMA, *Greenup*, 30 April (JenM, JPa). 1 at Long Point, 1 May (ph BY). 1 at West KY WMA, *McCracken*, 3 May (ScR). 1 at Brier East, *Fayette*, 6 May (DSv).

Least Bittern – 1-2 at Peabody WMA, Sinclair Unit, Muck Lake, *Muhlenberg*, 21-28 May (wr ph TG, SG, NBr, TrN).

Snowy Egret – 1 at Etown Sports Park, *Hardin*, 6 April (wr JnS) was the earliest reported. 11 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 3 May (RaB) was the season's peak reported count.

Little Blue Heron – 12 reports in *Trigg* and 1 each in *Hickman*, *Marshall*, and *Christian*. Earliest was 1 n. of Oak Grove, *Christian*, 10 April (ph ShA). 8 at LBL-Long Creek Area, *Trigg*, 4 May/18 May (JoP, RaB) was the highest number reported.

TRICOLORED HERON – Accepted by KBRC. Sixteenth state record. A Beckham Bird Club fieldtrip found 1 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 13 April (wr ph JW, ph MiC, MM, wr ph JBa).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1 in Louisville beginning 13 March (m.ob.) set a state record early date.

Mississippi Kite – 1 at Elk Fork Bend, *Todd*, 22 April (wr DbH) set a state record early date.

Rough-legged Hawk – 1 dark morph at Roughie, *McLean*, 7 March (wr ph JBa, ph CBz, MM, BPB, EHo) was the only report.

Short-eared Owl – The only report was of 3 at Talon Winery, *Fayette*, 17 March (LSc, DSv).

Merlin – 9 reports; all listed. 1 at Hebron, *Boone*, 12 March (wr RC). 1 n. of Adairville, *Logan*, 16 March (ph ST). 1 at KY Dam, 23 March (wr ShA, wr JoH). 1 at Interstate 65, Cave City, *Barren*, 24 March (wr DSv, wr LsC). 1 in *Larue*, 31 March (RMD, ph JnS). 1 at McElroy Lake, 3 April (wr AaH, m.ob.). 1 at Brier East, *Fayette*, 12 April (wr DSv). 1 at Hardy Slough, *Henderson*, 27 April (wr ph BY). 1 nw. of Long Point, 28 April (BWu, TQ, BPB).



Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Jefferson*, 18 May 2019, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – 10 reports. 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 2 May (wr ph BY) was the earliest reported. 1 at the UK Arboretum, 21 May (wr DPt) was the last reported.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Sight report with details of 1 in LBL, KY Lake Scenic Drive, *Lyon*, 24 May (wr BY).

Alder Flycatcher – 1 at Mayfair, 16-17 May (wr au BY, PB, au BD). 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, 20-21 May (ph BPB, au BD, LMc). 1 at Arthur K. Draut Park, Louisville, 23 May (wr BWo). 1 off Rowdy Gap Rd., *Perry*, 31 May (au RD).

Willow Flycatcher – 1 at Sandy Lee Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 28 April (wr au DL) set a state record early date.



Common Raven – *Pike*, 6 April 2019, Daryl Owens

Common Raven – 1 at Brinkley, *Knott*, 22 March (wr JHo). 1 at Hal Rogers Parkway, *Leslie*, 5 April (wr JSo, wr DL). 1 at Bad Branch SNP, *Letcher*, 6 April (JSo, DL). At Elkhorn City, *Pike*, 1 feeding two young 6 April (wr RgM, wr ph DrO), and 1 on 29 April (PmK). 2 at Jackson, *Breathitt*, 13 May (ZcH). 1-2 at Daniel Boone National Forest, Salt Lick, *Bath*, 17-21 May (wr GtA).

CAVE SWALLOW – **First state record.** Accepted by KBRC. 1 at McElroy Lake, 4 May (wr ph BPB, wr ph LMc, ph JBa, m.ob.). See Field Note this issue.

Brown-Headed Nuthatch – [KBRC review not required at this location.] 2-3 continued through the season at the London Ranger District Office, *Laurel* (m.ob.). See Field Note this issue.

Sedge Wren – All reports listed. 1 at the UK Arboretum, *Fayette*, 29 April (ph NBr). 1 at LBL-Long Creek Area, *Trigg*, 4 May (RaB). 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 6 May (ph RHr).

EVENING GROSBEAK – Accepted by KBRC. 2 at a feeder a few miles ne. of Cynthiana, *Harrison*, 12-15 March (ph EvF, ph NBr, ph Jba, wr ph DL, m.ob.).

Lark Sparrow – 1 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 21 April (wr CBz). 1 at McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 23 April (CC). 1 at LBL-Long Creek Area, *Trigg*, 30 April (wr ph BY). 2 along Bogle Road and Vance Lane, *Warren*, 15-23 May (CBz, ph RcS, m.ob.). 1 at Rowdy Mine Area,

Perry, 30 May (ph LgA).

BREWER'S SPARROW – **First state record.** Accepted by KBRC. 1 at South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 30 April (ph PSp). See Field Note this issue.

Fox Sparrow – 1 singing near Hydro, *Warren*, 28-30 May (au AaH) set a state record late date.

Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco – 1 in ne, Lexington, 18 March (wr MTw). The continuing individual at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, was last observed 1 March (wr BY, MY).

HARRIS'S SPARROW – Previously accepted by KBRC. The long-staying individual at Schochoh, *Logan*, was last reported 30 April (ph ST, DT, m.ob.).

Lincoln's Sparrow – 12 reports. 1 at E.P. “Tom” Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 23 April (PtP) was the earliest reported. 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, 13 May (BPB, MM) was the last reported. 13 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 3 May (CBz) was the highest number reported.

Brewer's Blackbird – All reports listed. 5 at Brown Rd Pond River Flood Bottoms, *Hopkins*, 5 March (wr BvC). 9 n. of Bremen, *Muhlenberg*, 7 March (wr EHö, wr JBa, wr MM). 4 at Pack Church Rd, Rumsey, *McLean*, 10 March (wr BvC, wr DoS). 4 at Reelfoot NWR, Long Point, 11

March (wr DgK, wr MGo). 2 at McElroy Lake, 4 April (AaH, ph RcS). 1 in *Logan*, 14 April (wr ph CBz).

Golden-winged Warbler – Only 7 reports; all within a two-week span. 1 at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, 25 April (JnK, SK) was the earliest reported. 2 at Higginson-Henry WMA, *Union*, 27 April (wr DL) was the highest number reported. **Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)** – 1 at Lakeview Farm, *Anderson*, 8 May (wr ph PmG).

Connecticut Warbler – 6 reports; all singles; all included. Surrey Hills Farm, 13 May (au BPB). Nettleroth Bird Sanctuary, *Jefferson*, 18 May (wr ph au JW, m.ob.). Audubon SP, *Henderson*, 19 May (wr KM). 1 in e. *Fayette* 18-21 May (LsC, ph DSv, au ROC, au TrN, JSo). 1 at Taylor Fork Ecological Area, *Madison*, 21 May (wr ph MkP). 1 at Wilson Creek RA, *Taylor*, 21 May (au RD).

Mourning Warbler – 4 reports; all singles, as follows: Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 7 May (wr SyP). E.P. “Tom” Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 11 May (wr JSd). Surrey Hills Farm, 13 May (MM, BPB). Western Kentucky University Agricultural Center, *Warren*, 9 May (DIR).

PAINTED BUNTING – Tenth state record. Accepted by KBRC. Adult male at Mayfair, 1 May (ph DMe via WnA).



Ruddy Turnstone – *Lincoln*, 17 May 2019, Jackie Elmore



Black-billed Cuckoo – *Jefferson*, 8 May 2019, Karen Bonsell

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eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relMay-2019. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. May 2019.

[Downloaded 4 July 2019. Ref: ebd_US-KY_201903_201905_prv_relMay-2019.]

Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Third Edition. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, 2019.

LOCATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (*Italics indicate a county name.*)

KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee

KY = Kentucky

KY Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*

LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*

Lexington, *Fayette*

Long Point = KY portion of the Long Point Unit, Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*

Louisville, *Jefferson*

McElroy Lake, transient lake in *Warren*

Mayfair = Louisville Water Company Ponds w. of Prospect, *Jefferson*

Morgan Pond, nw. of Oak Grove, s. *Christian*

RA = Recreation Area

SP = State Park

Sauerheber Unit = Sauerheber Unit, Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*

Sinclair Unit = Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*

Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*

UK = University of Kentucky, Lexington, *Fayette*

WastePath / Clean Earth Facility, Shar-Cal Road, w. of Calvert City, *Marshall* [Must have your own safety vest to visit this location.]

WMA = Wildlife Management Area

OBSERVERS

multiple observers (m.ob.)	Rex Graham (RxG)	Daryl Owens (DrO)
Beckham Bird Club (BBC)	Steve Graham (SG)	Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB)
Win Ahrens (WnA)	Teresa Graham (TG)	Jason Parrish (JPa)
Logan Anderson (LgA)	Whitney Gregg (WtG)	Mike Patton (MkP)
Gautam Apte (GtA)	Zach Hackworth (ZcH)	Sydney Penner (SyP)
Sharon Arnold (ShA)	Joseph Hall (JoH)	Josh Powell (JoP)
Jamie Baker (JBa)	Debbie Hamilton (DbH)	Tommy Quarles (TQ)
Karen Baumann (KBn)	Ron Hirsch (RHr)	Scott Ramos (ScR)
Tom Becker (TB)	Josh Holland (JHo)	Doug Raybuck (DgR)
Jane Bell (JB)	Eric Hope (EHo)	Kristy Reske (KRk)
Pat Bell (PB)	Aaron Hulsey (AaH)	Teresa Bragg Rice (TBR)
Clay Bliznick (CBz)	Timothy Jones (TmJ)	Dalton Richardson (DIR)
William Blodgett, Jr. (WmB)	Doug Kibbe (DgK)	Rickey Shive (RcS)
Karen Bonsell (KB)	Pamela King (PmK)	Tammie Smith (TaS)
Lyle Bontrager (LyB)	Janet Kistler (JnK)	Jennifer Snyder (JnS)
Ray Bontrager (RaB)	Steve Kistler (SK)	Jeff Sole (JSO)
Barbara Brand (BBr)	David Lang (DL)	Jake Souder (JSd)
Nancy Braun (NB)	Tyler Lucas (TLu)	Pam Spaulding (PSp)
John Brunjes (JBr)	Terri Lusk (TrL)	Donna Stricklin (DoS)
Michael Callan (MiC)	Andrew Lydeard (AnL)	David Svetich (DSv)
Beverly Carrico (BvC)	Roger Mayhorn (RgM)	Jeremy Teague (JrT)
Hap Chambers (HC)	Lindsey McMahon (LMc)	Mark Tower (MTw)
Lisa Combs (LsC)	Andrew Melnykovych (AwM)	Debby Tyson (DT)
Linda Craiger (LCr)	Debbie Menefee (DMe)	Steve Tyson (ST)
Charlie Crawford (CC)	Rosemary Meredith (RMd)	Barbara Vellios (BaV)
Rodney Crice (RC)	Keith Michalski (KM)	Charles Vellios (ChV)
Brian Davis (BD)	Ellen Mollé (ElM)	James Wheat (JW)
Roseanna Denton (RD)	Mark Monroe (MM)	Anna Wittmer (AnW)
Melissa Easley (ME)	Jen Moore (JenM)	Julie Wittmer (JlW)
Evan Farmer (EvF)	Tina Nauman (TiN)	Barbara Woerner (BW)
Mackenzie Goldthwait (MGo)	Teresa Noel (TrN)	Brian Wulker (BWu)
Pamela Graber (PmG)	Ronan O'Carra (ROC)	Ben Yandell (BY)
	John Omer (JoO)	Mary Yandell (MY)
	Charters Osborne (COB)	



Willet – *Green*, 8 May 2019, Richard Kessler



Wilson's Phalarope – *Warren*, 5 May 2019, David Lang



Evening Grosbeak – *Harrison*,
14 March 2019, Jamie Baker



Ross's Goose – *Warren*, 18 May 2019, Terri Lusk



Great Horned Owl fledglings – *Jefferson*, 8 May 2019, Rev. Lee A. Payne, Jr.



Common Gallinule – *Warren*, 12 May 2019, James Wheat



Prairie Warbler – Madison, 13 May 2019, Robert Foster

SUMMARY OF eBIRD REPORTS
MARCH 2019 - MAY 2019
Ben Yandell and Teresa Noel

March-May reports available at eBird.org covered 117 of Kentucky’s 120 counties, totaled 268 species, 604 reporting observers, 13,200 reports, 208,500 lines of data, 4,100 unduplicated attached photographs or audio files, and 764,000 individual birds reported (counting repeats across dates, but eliminating duplicate counts by groups and entries with an “x” instead of a number).

This table summarizes eBird reports by species and month. Column headings are as follows:

- Species** Common name. **ALL CAPS** if the species requires KBRC review. Species name in **bold**, if seasonal report text has additional comments.
- #cos.** Number of counties with a report of the species
- earliest** Date of the first report of the season; blank if the species is usually present before the season begins.
- latest** Date of the last report of the season; blank if the species is usually present after the season ends.
- max** Maximum count in a single report.
- [month]** Number of **reports** [not number of birds] that listed the species during the month, counting grouped reports only once. Comparing across the season’s months may give a rough idea of arrival and departure patterns for species that migrate.
- Counties** If species reported in five or fewer counties, lists the counties with a report. Counties listed from most to fewest number of reports.

Example of how to interpret the table

species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	counties
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	58		12 May	20	34	333	64	

Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported from 58 counties, and the last column can’t list all those counties. Earliest date is not shown, because the species had been reported in late February. The latest report was 12 May. The highest count of birds in a single report was 20. Most of the reports were in April, perhaps due to a pulse of migrants during the month and due to more birders in the field.

eBird summary table: March - May 2019

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK	2	4 May	28 May	5			5	Fayette, Calloway
Snow Goose	7		13 Mar	35	10			
Ross's Goose	4		25 May	2	6	2	5	Warr, Hend, Hopk, Mrsh
Greater White-fronted Goose	5		13 Mar	46	13			Davs, Todd, Hend, Larue, Warr
Cackling Goose	2	23 Mar	6 Apr	3	2	1		Wayne, Barren
Canada Goose	95			200	949	997	878	
Mute Swan	5		26 May	6	24	13	10	Barr, Fayt, Oldh, Muhl, Nich
Tundra Swan	1		10 Mar	2	9			Hopkins
Wood Duck	81			40	256	308	255	
Blue-winged Teal	48			525	197	339	102	
Northern Shoveler	31		21 May	800	241	126	24	
Gadwall	31		27 May	1050	220	85	30	
American Wigeon	22		2 May	400	92	42	1	
Mallard	67			700	727	633	587	
American Black Duck	10		19 Apr	12	22	5		
Northern Pintail	14		25 Mar	250	51			
Green-winged Teal	24		26 Apr	250	159	40		
Canvasback	22		14 Apr	200	70	6		
Redhead	30		18 May	210	125	13	4	
Ring-necked Duck	41		28 May	500	199	28	9	
Greater Scaup	20		14 May	50	84	13	9	
Lesser Scaup	41			2500	254	79	26	
White-winged Scoter	4		18 May	2	14	1	1	Fayt, Hard, Mrsh, Linc
Long-tailed Duck	2		25 Mar	1	2			Allen, Marshall
Bufflehead	42		23 May	115	290	67	14	
Common Goldeneye	23		13 Apr	25	53	3		
Hooded Merganser	35			139	136	33	34	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Common Merganser	7		19 May	3	5	1	1	
Red-breasted Merganser	21		15 May	120	59	18	16	
Ruddy Duck	20		17 May	160	80	44	16	
Northern Bobwhite	49			9	4	65	158	
Ruffed Grouse	2			1			3	Wolfe, Powell
Wild Turkey	82			53	145	303	239	
Pied-billed Grebe	44			76	247	128	36	
Horned Grebe	25		6 May	65	135	27	5	
Red-necked Grebe	2		26 Mar	1	5			Marshall, Fayette
Eared Grebe	1	18 Mar	30 Mar	2	3			Russell
Rock Pigeon	67			350	257	216	199	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	22			12	40	40	29	
WHITE-WINGED DOVE	2	4 May	22 May	2			12	Fayette, Hopkins
Mourning Dove	106			68	1262	1534	1589	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	73	10 Apr		10		7	395	
Black-billed Cuckoo	14	22 Apr	22 May	2		3	16	
Common Nighthawk	28	16 Apr		26		5	72	
Chuck-Will's-Widow	18	17 Apr		4		4	25	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	30	31 Mar		20	1	29	37	
Chimney Swift	84	27 Mar		300	1	302	716	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	68	28 Mar		11	1	239	528	
Virginia Rail	3	13 Apr	7 May	5		4	1	Henderson, Jefferson, Muhlenberg
Sora	9	7 Apr	13 May	31		22	12	
Common Gallinule	1	12 May	18 May	1			6	Warren
American Coot	35		23 May	1100	168	103	25	
Sandhill Crane	20		21 May	750	39	1	4	
Black-necked Stilt	3	30 Mar		15	1	17	9	Fulton, Henderson, Warren
American Avocet	3	11 Apr	28 May	12		6	2	Bullitt, Jefferson, Christian

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Black-bellied Plover	4	19 Apr	21 May	38		7	20	Warren, Fult, Hend, Rowan
American Golden-Plover	4	10 Mar	5 May	250	7	21	1	Warren, Fult, Logan, Mrsh
Killdeer	85			215	593	556	541	
Semipalmated Plover	17	7 Apr		425		11	104	
WHIMBREL	1	15 May	15 May	1			1	Warren
Marbled Godwit	1	28 Apr	28 Apr	5		1		Warren
Ruddy Turnstone	4	5 May	27 May	6			12	Warr, Linc, Bath, Union
Stilt Sandpiper	4	5 Apr	24 May	52		8	24	Warr, Fult, Chrs, Logan
Sanderling	1	9 May	18 May	4			10	Warren
Dunlin	10	31 Mar	24 May	200	1	16	25	
Least Sandpiper	25	7 Mar		350	8	53	120	
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	2 May	27 May	45			29	Warr, Logan, Boyd, Fult, Jeff
Pectoral Sandpiper	19		24 May	350	44	101	38	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	23	1 May		1500			100	
Western Sandpiper	1	3 May	3 May	1			1	Warren
Short-billed Dowitcher	5	5 Apr	21 May	17		5	31	Warr, Fult, Logan, Todd, Chrs
Long-billed Dowitcher	4	30 Mar	5 May	450	2	35	11	Warr, Fult, Chrs, Hend
American Woodcock	23			9	43	6	8	
Wilson's Snipe	31		21 May	113	146	98	12	
Spotted Sandpiper	57	7 Apr	31 May	20		133	246	
Solitary Sandpiper	44	5 Apr	20 May	30		177	136	
Lesser Yellowlegs	31		24 May	920	37	205	89	
Willet	8	21 Apr	9 May	64		8	5	
Greater Yellowlegs	28		31 May	190	45	172	50	
Wilson's Phalarope	2	26 Apr	17 May	2		1	11	Warren, Fulton
Jaeger sp.	1	23 Mar	23 Mar	1	1			Marshall
Bonaparte's Gull	29		4 May	1000	115	56	2	
LITTLE GULL	2	20 Apr	28 Apr	1		6		Livingston, Lyon

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Laughing Gull	1	11 Mar	11 Mar	1	1			Warren
Franklin's Gull	3	6 Mar	14 May	2	1	1	5	Warren, Fulton, Lyon
Ring-billed Gull	36		20 May	3500	205	63	17	
CALIFORNIA GULL								
Herring Gull	1		1 Mar	2	1			Marshall
Lesser Black-backed Gull	10		26 May	500	40	12	7	
Glaucous Gull	4		24 Apr	13	18	4		Mrsh, Lyon, Chrs, Hopk
Least Tern	1	1 Mar	1 Mar	1	1			Marshall
	2	23 May		100			4	Fulton, Henderson
Caspian Tern	11	5 Apr	30 May	30		27	17	
Black Tern	3	4 May	29 May	15			14	Warren, Bath, Fulton
Common Tern	4	24 Apr	12 May	12		4	8	Livn, Warr, Lyon, Mrsh
Forster's Tern	16			17	7	37	29	
Red-throated Loon	5		14 May	5	12	1	16	Fayt, Mrsh, Allen, Hard, Warr
Common Loon	29			38	67	35	39	
Double-crested Cormorant	48			1500	135	191	191	
American White Pelican	15			417	49	40	37	
American Bittern	8	29 Mar	6 May	3	1	7	2	
Least Bittern	1	21 May		2			3	Muhlenberg
Great Blue Heron	94			41	443	615	719	
Great Egret	34	16 Mar		147	31	152	169	
Snowy Egret	5	6 Apr		11		2	8	Trig, Chrs, Fult, Hard, Livn
Little Blue Heron	4	10 Apr		8		3	13	Trig, Chrs, Hick, Mrsh
TRICOLORED HERON	1	13 Apr	13 Apr	1		1		Henderson
Cattle Egret	11	29 Mar		50	3	10	23	
Green Heron	48	29 Mar		10	1	98	154	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	7	8 Mar		55	13	31	77	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	4	15 Mar		10	20	10	12	Jeff, Lyon, Mrsh, Union
Black Vulture	90			117	397	447	456	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Turkey Vulture	106			46	1072	1297	1171	
Osprey	39	5 Mar		10	66	185	125	
Northern Harrier	33		5 May	6	89	58	7	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	22		13 May	3	24	27	6	
Cooper's Hawk	68			4	163	216	153	
Bald Eagle	56			41	210	210	134	
Mississippi Kite	16	22 Apr		6		6	56	
Red-shouldered Hawk	69			5	268	333	252	
Broad-winged Hawk	44	28 Mar		86	1	97	46	
Red-tailed Hawk	94			6	489	450	381	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	7 Mar	7 Mar	1	2			McLean
Barn Owl	6			1		2	5	
Eastern Screech-Owl	25			4	12	26	27	
Great Horned Owl	28			4	30	52	43	
Barred Owl	51			7	41	128	111	
Short-eared Owl	1		17 Mar	3	1			Fayette
Belted Kingfisher	75			4	180	197	157	
Red-headed Woodpecker	71			12	89	171	220	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	104			18	979	1324	1219	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	47		15 May	7	117	140	6	
Downy Woodpecker	98			13	935	1093	988	
Hairy Woodpecker	69			4	176	248	220	
Northern Flicker	91			30	488	546	360	
Pileated Woodpecker	93			9	287	508	498	
American Kestrel	75			7	277	137	134	
Merlin	9		28 Apr	1	5	4		
Peregrine Falcon	17			4	18	27	27	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Great Crested Flycatcher	86	17 Apr		12		216	730	
Eastern Kingbird	88	8 Apr		80		278	745	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	2 May	21 May	1			10	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	86	24 Apr		18		48	726	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	18 May	24 May	1			2	Jefferson, Lyon
Acadian Flycatcher	63	19 Apr		16		6	245	
Alder Flycatcher	2	16 May	31 May	1			7	Jefferson, Perry
Willow Flycatcher	18	28 Apr		5		1	65	
Least Flycatcher	21	23 Apr	26 May	10		22	56	
Eastern Phoebe	104			18	396	633	584	
Loggerhead Shrike	12			2	18	9	4	
White-eyed Vireo	83	10 Mar		20	1	354	423	
Bell's Vireo	5	21 Apr		8		11	21	Hend, Muhl, Warr, Davs, Fult
Yellow-throated Vireo	75	9 Apr		9		174	230	
Blue-headed Vireo	47	16 Mar		8	13	119	93	
Philadelphia Vireo	12	25 Apr	24 May	1		6	20	
Warbling Vireo	59	7 Apr		9		142	281	
Red-eyed Vireo	89	7 Apr		51		211	828	
Blue Jay	104			46	1124	1592	1485	
American Crow	109			85	1151	1226	1194	
Fish Crow	13			50	43	78	54	
Common Raven	6			3	1	4	4	
Horned Lark	27			64	128	93	57	
Bank Swallow	26	12 Apr		150		33	51	
Tree Swallow	89			750	263	692	658	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	84	16 Mar		40	46	383	442	
Purple Martin	72	12 Mar		95	44	254	360	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Barn Swallow	94	16 Mar		350	28	548	963	
Cliff Swallow	48	17 Mar		400	2	67	138	
CAVE SWALLOW	1	4 May	5 May	1			2	Warren
Carolina Chickadee	102			41	1102	1337	1123	
Tufted Titmouse	105			30	1023	1375	1121	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	50		14 May	12	169	181	36	
White-breasted Nuthatch	97			15	649	809	659	
BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH	1			3	3	1	2	Laurel
Brown Creeper	38		24 Apr	8	138	92		
House Wren	65	18 Mar		8	2	273	430	
Winter Wren	24		28 Apr	6	35	14		
Sedge Wren	3	29 Apr	6 May	1		1	2	Fayette, Jefferson, Trigg
Marsh Wren	4	1 Apr	5 May	3		17	4	Hend, Fult, Jeff, Muhl
Carolina Wren	106			22	923	1300	1271	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	98	16 Mar		30	27	925	711	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	56		4 May	27	182	128	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	58		12 May	20	34	333	64	
Eastern Bluebird	100			25	674	802	785	
Veery	24	22 Apr	20 May	6		15	64	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	23	24 Apr	24 May	10		19	72	
Swainson's Thrush	50	22 Apr	28 May	45		56	305	
Hermit Thrush	34		4 May	5	71	118	8	
Wood Thrush	84	11 Apr		20		227	505	
American Robin	106			400	1610	1941	1899	
Gray Catbird	80			22	6	160	537	
Brown Thrasher	98			15	254	731	705	
Northern Mockingbird	96			15	710	827	846	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
European Starling	104			3000	1218	1321	1392	
Cedar Waxwing	65			200	21	13	395	
House Sparrow	83			50	437	534	627	
American Pipit	16		4 May	120	50	40	2	
EVENING GROSBEAK	1	12 Mar	15 Mar	2	6			Harrison
House Finch	80			71	709	742	734	
Purple Finch	48		17 May	30	196	188	46	
Pine Siskin	26		22 May	50	83	86	35	
American Goldfinch	100			150	695	1178	1055	
Grasshopper Sparrow	23	7 Apr		35		9	58	
Lark Sparrow	5	21 Apr		2		3	6	Warr, Fult, Hend, Perry, Trigg
Chipping Sparrow	97			87	286	904	675	
Field Sparrow	99			50	368	619	540	
BREWER'S SPARROW	1	30 Apr	30 Apr	1		1		Jefferson
Fox Sparrow	22		30 May	8	84	14	3	
American Tree Sparrow	12		1 Apr	18	27	1		
Dark-eyed Junco	70		4 May	43	716	194	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	52		17 May	26	169	220	98	
HARRIS'S SPARROW	1		30 Apr	1	22	27		Logan
White-throated Sparrow	90		27 May	40	680	1075	218	
Vesper Sparrow	12	12 Mar	4 May	8	11	17	2	
Henslow's Sparrow	12	13 Apr		8		4	25	
Savannah Sparrow	41			28	76	122	53	
Song Sparrow	101			50	1021	1139	1091	
Lincoln's Sparrow	9	23 Apr	13 May	13		4	10	
Swamp Sparrow	42		12 May	50	126	161	20	
Eastern Towhee	102			24	610	921	737	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
Yellow-breasted Chat	76	20 Apr		15		67	382	
Bobolink	21	23 Apr		132		8	53	
Eastern Meadowlark	94			66	455	558	516	
Orchard Oriole	77	13 Apr		13		124	371	
Baltimore Oriole	79	31 Mar		19	1	189	576	
Red-winged Blackbird	103			1200	1057	1408	1342	
Brown-headed Cowbird	100			300	339	1164	1121	
Rusty Blackbird	19		1 May	500	46	27	1	
Brewer's Blackbird	6		14 Apr	9	4	2		
Common Grackle	98			1000	801	1139	1403	
Ovenbird	49	11 Apr		27		104	166	
Worm-eating Warbler	36	11 Apr		14		65	116	
Louisiana Waterthrush	72	12 Mar		9	29	210	175	
Northern Waterthrush	19	16 Apr	17 May	9		32	65	
Golden-winged Warbler	7	25 Apr	6 May	2		16	2	
Blue-winged Warbler	45	10 Apr		6		73	69	
Black-and-white Warbler	52	28 Mar		22	4	163	208	
Prothonotary Warbler	58	11 Apr		20		184	243	
Swainson's Warbler	11	19 Apr		9		16	42	
Tennessee Warbler	43	19 Apr	24 May	25		30	217	
Orange-crowned Warbler	14	16 Mar	15 May	1	1	21	5	
Nashville Warbler	29	11 Apr	16 May	30		68	83	
Connecticut Warbler	5	13 May	21 May	1			10	Fayt, Jeff, Hend, Mads, Tayl
Mourning Warbler	3	7 May	13 May	1			4	Jefferson, Fayette, Warren
Kentucky Warbler	58	18 Apr		17		52	201	
Common Yellowthroat	95	7 Apr		29		292	649	
Hooded Warbler	54	11 Apr		30		140	184	

Species	#cos.	earliest	latest	max	Mar	Apr	May	Counties
American Redstart	52	19 Apr		16		24	368	
Cape May Warbler	27	23 Apr	21 May	28		17	133	
Cerulean Warbler	27	18 Apr		28		20	65	
Northern Parula	91	29 Mar		25	1	469	510	
Magnolia Warbler	28	26 Apr	23 May	5		5	141	
Bay-breasted Warbler	25	25 Apr	22 May	14		2	77	
Blackburnian Warbler	24	11 Apr	22 May	4		14	68	
Yellow Warbler	69	6 Apr		10		205	304	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	24	25 Apr	22 May	5		16	98	
Blackpoll Warbler	43	21 Apr	23 May	8		17	175	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	11	28 Apr	19 May	3		2	27	
Palm Warbler	46		16 May	15	4	205	131	
Pine Warbler	60			10	97	163	112	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	84		18 May	30	172	561	194	
Yellow-throated Warbler	80	29 Mar		14	4	320	265	
Prairie Warbler	75	6 Apr		25		228	271	
Black-throated Green Warbler	58	30 Mar		20	4	167	152	
Canada Warbler	8	3 May	21 May	2			17	
Wilson's Warbler	10	27 Apr	23 May	2		2	21	
Summer Tanager	85	18 Apr		11		127	562	
Scarlet Tanager	69	16 Apr		23		114	326	
Northern Cardinal	110			94	1632	2126	2077	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	60	12 Apr		20		146	338	
Blue Grosbeak	63	13 Apr		6		98	255	
Indigo Bunting	100	11 Apr		100		241	1185	
PAINTED BUNTING	.	1 May	1 May	1			1	Jefferson
Dickcissel	.	21 Apr		35		16	168	

FIELD NOTES

Three of the following notes refer to first state records for the species. The fourth is about a first confirmed nesting in eastern Kentucky. The Kentucky Bird Records Committee has accepted these species for inclusion in the state list. – Editor

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF BREWER'S SPARROW

On 30 April 2019, I was walking the rim of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District flood retention basin off the South Fork of Beargrass Creek near Bardstown Road. A small sparrow jumped up into a shrub near me. My camera shows that I shot the photos at 7:43 a.m. The light was a dull overcast. My ISO was 1600, shutter speed 1/350, and f-stop 5.6.

My immediate impression was that it was a Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), because it seemed to be light gray and had a slight white eye-ring, but I was concentrating on getting it in focus and not looking for field marks. The bird flew across the water and I did not chase it. I knew that a Vesper Sparrow is a good bird for the end of April. However, since I already had other pictures of Vesper Sparrows and I had a picture documenting this bird, I was more interested in getting down to the water's edge to see if there were any interesting shorebirds.

Usually I caption my images the day I take them, but I didn't look at the sparrow photos for a week. When I began processing the images from that day, I had doubts that the bird was a Vesper Sparrow. Since it would be a good bird even if it were a Vesper, I sent a picture to Brainard for his opinion. Jamie Baker also asked to see my photos, and he wrote back that the bird was probably a Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*).

That is how I found out I had photographed a rare bird. I did not learn that it was a first sighting for the state until I entered the observation in eBird. Brainard sent the photos to two experts and both confirmed Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*).

I wish I had realized what I had at the time, so that others could have had a chance to look for it.

— Pam Spaulding, 11106 Cherry Lane, Louisville, KY, 40223.

Not only is this a first record for the state, it is one of only a dozen or so records in Eastern North America (eBird data). – Editor



Brewer's Sparrow – Jefferson County, 30 April 2019, Pam Spaulding

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF CAVE SWALLOW

On the early evening of 4 May 2019, the authors were birding at McElroy Lake, Warren County, scanning through swallows foraging over the lake and roosting on a nearby irrigation rig. There were many Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) with smaller numbers of Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). While scanning through the birds on the irrigation rig to get an estimate of the number of Cliff Swallows, Palmer-Ball came across a Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) sitting in between two Bank Swallows.

The bird was slightly larger than the Bank Swallows with a dark bluish back, dark wings, and pale underparts. The throat and auricular areas were pale brown transitioning abruptly to a pale, sandy gray-brown on the breast, and the belly was whitish. The nape was similarly pale gray-brown with a dark cap that extended through the eye, making for a pronounced “capped” or “goggled” appearance. The bird was perched in such a way that the rump color could not be seen.



(Left) Cave Swallow; (right) Cave Swallow with Cliff Swallows above and to its right – Warren County, 5 May 2019, Jamie Baker

While Palmer-Ball went back to the car for a camera, McMahon attempted to digiscope the Cave Swallow using a smart phone. The sky was very cloudy, but she was able to get a couple of images of the bird in the fading light, including one that clearly shows a pale, orange-brown rump. Before Palmer-Ball returned, the bird flew off, and despite scanning the area it could not be relocated.

The following day, Jamie Baker and several others returned to the lake to search for the Cave Swallow. By continuously scanning the loafing birds on the irrigation rig, Baker was finally successful in relocating it. He was also able to obtain several documentary images of it. The bird was seen again later in the morning, but after skies cleared during the mid-day, many of the swallows dispersed, and the Cave Swallow could not be found again. Observations and photos obtained 5 May 2019 confirmed the presence of a pale brown rump and squarish shape to the tip of the tail.

This is the first documented record of Cave Swallow in Kentucky, although individuals have been found on several occasions in most surrounding states. In addition, a pale-rumped

swallow observed over Green River Lake, Adair County, 7 December 2013 (*The Kentucky Warbler*, 90:53-54, 2014; R. Denton, eBird data) may very well have been a Cave Swallow. Almost all vagrant records of this species have occurred during late fall following the advancement of significant weather systems from the southern United States. The nature of this vagrancy is not really understood, but reports of overflight birds during spring have also begun to accumulate over the past several years. As has been the case with at least most other vagrant Cave Swallows in our region, the pale tones of brown on this bird suggested it was from the “Mexican” race (*P. f. pelodoma*).

— Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222, and Lindsey McMahon, Sheperdsville, KY, 40165.

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF GREAT SHEARWATER

On 15 July 2019, we arrived at Kentucky Dam, Marshall County, about 4:40 p.m. in search of any seafaring birds that might have been brought in on the remnants of Hurricane Barry, which had made landfall in Louisiana two days earlier as a Category 1 hurricane. Looking at the radar, we noted the storm bands were expected to hit the Tennessee River in that area just as dusk arrived, so we decided to set our scopes up on the west pullout above the dam. For the first three-and-a-half hours of our vigil, winds were consistently from the southwest at 10-15 MPH, with gusts exceeding 25 MPH. The cloud cover was at 100% the entire time; rain was minimal until dark. As the light began to dwindle, the clouds became darker and moved very quickly north as the first big thunderstorms approached. Several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) streamed by toward a roost near the marina. Wind gusts increased to 35+ MPH, and with only ten minutes of daylight remaining, a dark, stream-lined bird shot over the dam from the west, closest to where we stood.



Great Shearwater – Marshall County, 15 July 2019, (left) Andrew Lydeard; (right) Daniel Redwine

Both of us had the immediate impression that this bird was not from the area. While other birds we had seen that day struggled against the strong winds, this bird seemed to easily cut through the air like a knife. The wings were sharp and thin, and the bird banked and turned with no effort, despite the wind. Luckily, we were quick to obtain photographs of the bird and were able to discern a thin band on the rump and a light nape, which gave the bird a capped appearance. When the bird banked and exposed the underside, the belly and chest were white, and the wings were white and outlined entirely in black. After a quick consultation with others with more familiarity with tubenoses, we were able to confirm the state’s first record of Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*).

— Andrew Lydeard (alydeard@murraystate.edu) and Daniel Redwine (daniel.redwine@gmail.com)

Two days after the Kentucky observation, a Great Shearwater was photographed along the Mississippi River near Memphis (eBird data). There are, of course, few inland records of this species. – Editor

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH IN LAUREL COUNTY:**First Nesting Record for Eastern Kentucky**

The Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) is a permanent resident of pine and mixed deciduous-pine woodlands within the Southeastern United States. This species has exhibited considerable expansion of its range over the past 45 years (Renfrow 2003). The first documented record of Brown-headed Nuthatch in Kentucky was in Russell County in Eastern Kentucky in 1999 (Palmer-Ball 2003), followed by sightings of a single bird in Marshall County in Western Kentucky in 2008 (Palmer-Ball and McNeely 2008). Nesting of the Brown-headed Nuthatch was confirmed at the Marshall County location during spring 2013 (Renfrow 2013). In spring 2018 Brown-headed Nuthatches were observed at Laurel County by Stephen J. Stedman. The presence of a family group was confirmed in June 2018, and a nest was confirmed during spring 2019.



Brown-headed Nuthatch – Laurel County, 22 April 2019, Frank Renfrow

Range Expansion

Northward range expansion of the breeding range of the Brown-headed Nuthatch into Eastern Tennessee during the latter half of the twentieth century has been well documented (Nicholson 1997). In 2008 nesting was confirmed less than 5 mi (8 km) from the Kentucky line in Fentress County (Sloan and Palmer-Ball 2008). This nest was in a Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) stump being used as a fence post in an open area of horse farms with some Shortleaf Pine habitat (Renfrow 2013).

The first documented record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Kentucky was of a single individual frequenting a campsite feeder near areas of Shortleaf and Loblolly Pines (*Pinus taeda*) at Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County, from 26 September through 12 October 1999 (Palmer-Ball 2003).

An individual was found at Kentucky Dam State Park, Marshall County, in 2008 (Palmer-Ball and McNeely 2008). I was able to locate an active nest at this location during Spring

2013 and confirmed fledging that year (Renfrow 2013). I returned in 2014, 2015, and 2016 and was able to locate active nests during each of those subsequent years. I returned to the location on 8 May 2017 and could verify the presence of only one individual, but I could not confirm nesting activity. [Others reported 1-2 birds in 2017.]

I was able to follow the feeding behavior of this individual for many hours over a two-day period. Despite the presence of a large planting of mature Loblolly Pines across the road, I found this individual spent all of its time foraging in the Shortleaf Pines during my observations. While it was foraging the Brown-headed Nuthatch spent most of the time gleaning pine seeds and insects in the Shortleaf Pine cone clusters. It also spent considerable time on the bark of the smaller branches, a much smaller amount of time on the bark of the pine trunks, and on only a few occasions did it go to various dead pine snags that would be likely nesting locations (F. Renfrow unpublished data). Reports of this species at Kentucky Dam have been very few in 2018 and only one possible sighting reported so far in 2019. The only confirmed Western Kentucky occurrence away from the Kentucky Dam breeding area was of one individual at Kenlake State Park, also in Marshall County, on 16 September 2017 (B. Palmer-Ball pers. comm.).

A First Nest Record for Eastern Kentucky

On 15 May 2018, Stephen J. Stedman observed a single Brown-headed Nuthatch by the Daniel Boone National Forest Ranger Station in London, Laurel County. The bird was on the grounds of the Ranger Station in the park area woods predominately consisting of mature Shortleaf Pines with an admixture of oaks and other deciduous trees. The next day Stedman located two individuals and observed them each day through 18 May 2018 (S. J. Stedman, pers. comm.). Beginning 2 June 2018, birders began to report recently fledged young, with total species counts as high as seven. Reports have continued since then (eBird data).

Behavioral observations: London-area Brown-headed Nuthatches

25 June 2018. I found a family group of two adults and two-three immature birds foraging in the Shortleaf Pine stand, spending most of their time in one of the larger trees behind the ranger station. The young were well beyond the fledgling phase and may have fledged several weeks prior.



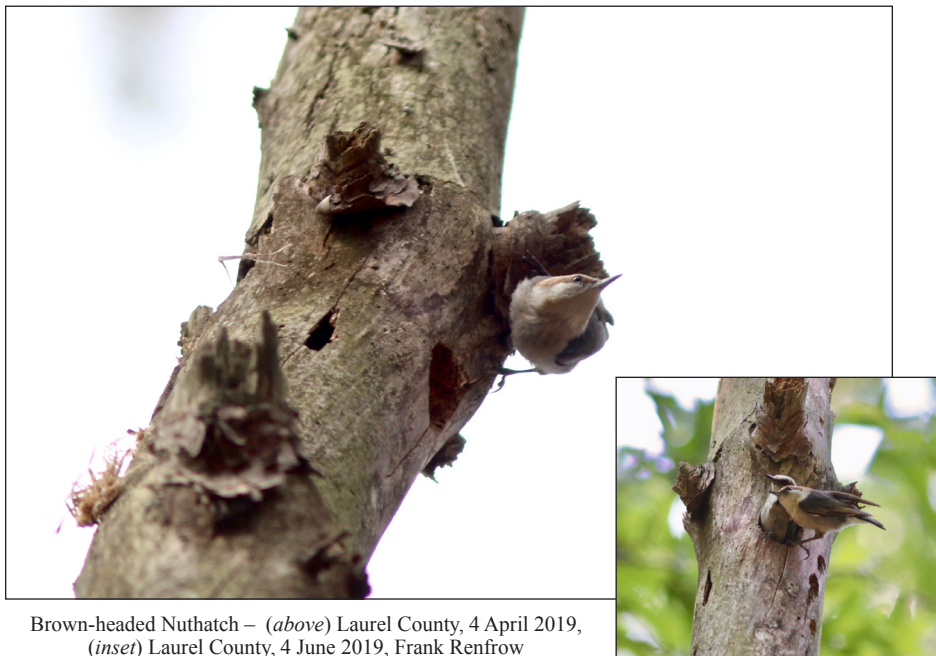
Brown-headed Nuthatch – Laurel County,
11 June 2019, Frank Renfrow

14 March 2019. I observed two birds feeding in the Shortleaf Pines but did not observe any breeding behavior. *State Office Building*. I also stopped at the Shortleaf Pine area near the State Office Building, which is four miles from the Ranger Station. I found three or four birds frequenting a dead pine snag with possible nest holes towards the top, but I did not observe any bird using those cavities.

4 April 2019. After some searching at the ranger station, I found a pair at a nest hole 30' up in a tall Shortleaf Pine about 12" in diameter. The nest was located

20" from the top of a vertical dead branch about 8' long diverging from the trunk about 20' up. The nest entrance was a well-rounded hole 1" or so in diameter. Some plant materials were sticking out of a smaller hole near the nest entrance, which is characteristic of the

caulking behavior around the nest entrance that has been noted in this species. The nest tree was among red oaks as well as other Shortleaf Pines near the edge of the woodlot bordering an open field. The nuthatches were foraging in both oaks and pines near the nest site. Their activities indicated that they were incubating eggs: One of the pair sat facing out of the nest hole, and the other came to feed the mate at 15- to 20-minute intervals.



Brown-headed Nuthatch – (above) Laurel County, 4 April 2019,
(inset) Laurel County, 4 June 2019, Frank Renfrow

22 April 2019. I observed the pair entering and leaving the nest cavity at roughly 10-minute intervals, with one sitting in the cavity for extended periods while the other returned to feed it. The birds rarely vocalized, except for brief calls prior to returning to the nest. *State Office Building*. This was the last time I could locate the nuthatches at the office building location, despite checking there on each subsequent trip. One bird was digging out a cavity in a dead Shortleaf Pine branch while another was feeding nearby. The two started taking turns excavating the cavity, and occasionally working on another entrance hole about 8" distant. They were both expending considerable effort and sawdust was flying generously. These cavities were 40' up in a large Shortleaf Pine in an open lawn area with Shortleaf Pines. The cavities were in a dead, forked horizontal branch and faced downward at a slight angle. I observed the nuthatches excavating for a period of an hour or so, and they made considerable headway in deepening the hole, which went from about half of their body length to a depth where they could enter the cavity completely.

29 April 2019. At the ranger station, adult birds bringing food to nestlings and removing fecal sacs.

14 May 2019. Adult birds engaged in what appeared to be attempts to encourage the young to leave the nest cavity. The adults were doing a lot of vocalizing at the nest entrance, with tail cocked, wings drooped and quivering. The adults seemed to delay transferring the food to the nestlings.

20 May 2019. I had anticipated that the young might have fledged but was surprised to see adults still going in and out of the nest, sometimes staying inside for prolonged periods but

not feeding young or removing fecal sacs. The adults were carrying food into the cavity, but each time they left with the food still in their bills.

4 June 2019. Two adults still very active at the nest hole. A fledgling appeared about 8" above the nest hole begging and being fed by one adult as the other sat looking out of the cavity. The adults continued to go and in and out of the nest, and one fed the other adult more often than the fledgling. The fledgling flew from the snag but then returned to beg again 20 minutes later.

11 June 2019. Two adults going in and out of the nest hole while the fledgling flew to the snag to beg. I did not see the adults feed the fledgling, which appeared mature enough to feed on its own.

28 June 2019. I had suspected that the adults might start a second brood, so I returned for a final visit. Although I stayed several hours, I was unable to locate any Brown-headed Nuthatches at the Ranger Station. A brief stop also failed to produce any sign of the species at the Kentucky State Office Building.

Tentative Conclusions

The two Eastern Kentucky locations where the Brown-headed Nuthatches have been found to nest are both areas of planted Shortleaf Pine, which is native to Eastern Kentucky as well as within a small portion of Trigg County in Western Kentucky, very near the Marshall County location. Previous speculation on the reasons for the northward expansion of this species focused on the planting of Loblolly Pine in Tennessee, well north of the tree's native range in Alabama and Georgia. The first Kentucky record of this species at Russell County in 1999 was in an area with extensive plantings of mature Loblolly Pine, but Shortleaf Pine was also present, especially in the campground area where the nuthatch was observed. However, if the presence of Loblolly Pines explains the recent range expansion, it is puzzling that my repeated checking yielded no evidence of Brown-headed Nuthatches at a large stand of mature Loblolly Pines within a mile of the ranger office.

Kentucky's two breeding locations are both substantial plots of planted Shortleaf Pine. There are not many comparable habitat locations of which I am aware of within Kentucky, despite having conducted considerable searching over the years. It remains to be seen whether there will be other areas within the state where the Brown-headed Nuthatch will appear, or whether these are just isolated individuals vulnerable to extirpation due to inability to establish a viable population in the limited areas of habitat presently available (Renfrow unpublished data).

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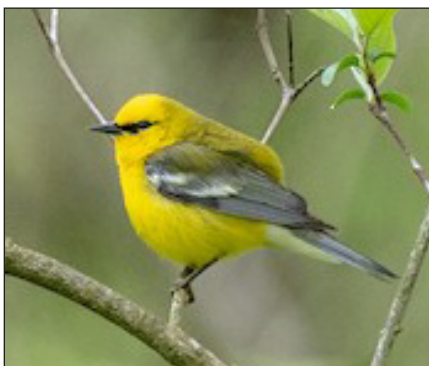
Sloan, C., and B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2008. The spring migration: Tennessee & Kentucky. *North American Birds* 62: 417-422.

— Frank Renfrow, 103 Covert Run Pike, Fort Thomas, KY 41075

*Kentucky appears to be the current northern limit of the Brown-headed Nuthatch's range west of the Appalachian Mountains. There are a handful of extralimital records in eBird: north of Chicago (2001-02), east of Cleveland (winter 2001-02), Kansas City (winter 1997-98), and Lincoln, Nebraska (winter 2010-11). Also of interest: "the Brown-headed Nuthatch is one of the few cooperatively-breeding birds native to North America, and one of the few for which tool use has been documented (individuals use chips of pine bark to pry off other bark chips while foraging)"; Slater, G. L., J. D. Lloyd, J. H. Withgott, and K. G. Smith (2013). *Brown-headed Nuthatch (Sitta pusilla)*, version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.349>. – Editor*



Blackpoll – Fayette, 12 May 2019,
Tommy Quarles



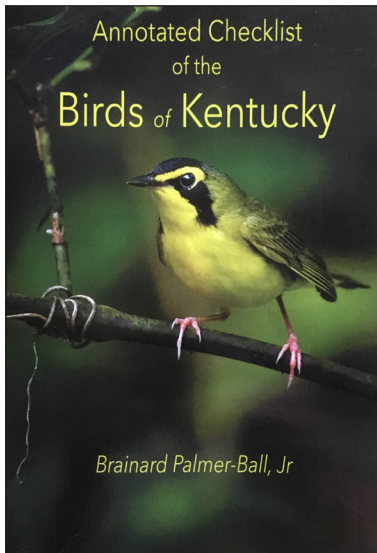
Blue-winged Warbler – Boone, 28 April 2019,
Gordon Bills



Cape May Warbler – Jefferson, 2 May 2019, Mary Yandell

NEWS AND VIEWS

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (3rd ed.) now available.



By Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
(Kentucky Ornithological Society).
Paperback 276 pages. 1 August 2019.

“The 3rd edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* updates the status and abundance of 390 species that have been documented to have occurred in Kentucky. The 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance.”
– Kentucky Ornithological Society website.

This important reference will be available at future meetings of the society, and is available through Aerio Book Sales (<https://aerobook.com/maker/productcard-4886075-6955.html>) and wherever books are sold.

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Award

The Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions she and her husband Wendell made to KOS and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The Scholarship is available to young birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Scholarship will pay tuition for young birders to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Summer Camp. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS website (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why they want to attend, and provide a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Scholarship recipients will be asked to report on their Camp experience, either in person at a KOS meeting, to their local bird club, or in writing. Scholarship applications are due by May 1 each year, however grants will be subject to ABA camp’s space availability.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 441 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY 40509, or via email at scott.marsh@twc.com.

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards up to \$1,000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS website (<http://birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>), or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or via email at kate.slankard@ky.gov.



1. Little Gull – with a Bonaparte’s Gull and two Franklin’s Gulls, *Lyon*, 24 April 2019, Ben Yandell; 2. Wimbrel – *Warren*, 15 May 2019, Pam Spaulding; 3. Eared Grebe – *Russell*, 27 March 2019, Lyle Bontrager; 4. Merlin – *Larue*, 31 March 2019, Jennifer Snyder; 5. Tricolored Heron – *Henderson*, 13 April 2019, Jamie Baker.